



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO WOMEN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILDREN INTO THE U.S.

TUCSON – Elizabeth Armijo, 29, of Phoenix, was sentenced Friday, May 4 to 15 months in prison and three years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson. Armijo had pleaded guilty on June 27, 2006, to conspiring to transport an illegal alien for profit.

In an unrelated case, Eva V. Battee, 50, of Moses Lake, Washington, was sentenced May 2 to four months in prison and two years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins. Battee pleaded guilty on February 15, 2007, to conspiring to transport an illegal alien.

On December 27, 2005, Armijo presented herself for admission into the United States at the port of entry in Nogales, Arizona. She was accompanied by two female children, ages five and three, and claimed that she was the children's aunt. Armijo claimed that both she and the children were U.S. citizens. Further investigation revealed that the children were Mexican citizens, and that Armijo was to receive \$500 to smuggle the children into the United States.

Armijo, who was pregnant at the time of offense, had her sentencing delayed until after she had given birth to her son. She is currently scheduled to begin her sentence on June 15, 2007, allowing her additional time to make arrangements for the care of her children while she is in prison.

On November 11, 2006, Battee presented herself for admission into the United States at the port of entry in Douglas, Arizona. Battee was accompanied by four female children ranging in age from fifteen years old to nine years old. Battee claimed that both she and the children were U.S. citizens, and that she was the girls' grandmother. Further investigation revealed that the children were Mexican citizens. Battee claimed that she was bringing the children into the U.S. as a favor to a friend.

Battee, who was a legal permanent resident alien at the time of the offense, has had her deportation hearing before immigration officials, and will be deported to Mexico at the conclusion of her sentence. Battee's husband, a U.S. citizen, attended her sentencing. Her attorney stated that Mr. Battee will move to Mexico after Battee is released since she will not be permitted to resume her residency in the United States.

The investigation in these cases was conducted by United States Customs and Border Protection, in Nogales and Douglas. The prosecutions were handled by Cynthia R. Wood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0178 (Armijo)
CR-06-2019 (Battee)

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RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-125(Armijo and Battee)

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